

Appl. No. 10/797,885
Amdt. dated February 22, 2006
Reply to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment of Feb. 6, 2006

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Responsive to the outstanding Office action and pursuant to the interview conducted on November 15, 2005, the above application is hereby amended to more specifically point out and distinctly claim what applicant regards as his invention. Applicant sincerely appreciates the examiner's indication that claim 6, as amended hereby pursuant to the discussion at the interview, appears to distinguish over the Magowan (U.S. 2,929,399) reference. The examiner indicated that allowability would depend on the outcome of a further search.

As currently amended, claim 6 has numerous structural differences over the prior art references of record. Specifically, the Magowan check valve is reversed and therefore teaches away from the structural configuration of the applicant's check valve. The seat 41 of Magowan, which is engaged by a ball member 23, is located on the hose end (to the left in Fig. 2), whereas the seat 70 of the applicant's invention is located on the compressor end of the ball chamber (to the left in Fig. 4; the compressor and hose ends are reversed in the Magowan and the applicant's drawings).

Amended claim 6 further structurally distinguishes Magowan by stating that the return spring is located entirely in the ball chamber, which structurally relates to the seat location at the compressor end of the ball chamber, as distinguished from Magowan's seat at the hose end. The return spring continuously maintains the ball of the applicants check the a in spaced relation from the seat for unimpeded flow at maximum flow rates through the vowel of, whereas compressor pressure in the Magowan check valve tends to push the ball towards its closed position against the seat 41 located at the hose end of the ball chamber.

Another structural distinction relates to the applicant's bypass 80, which communicates with the compressor inlet bore (Fig. 4), as compared to the Magowan bypass 59, which communicates with the hose outlet bore (Fig. 2). Yet another structural distinction relates to applicants adjustable set screw 82, with a center opening communicating the power (hose) end with the ball chamber.

The remaining references of record have also been considered and are likewise distinguishable from claim 6, as currently amended. The examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if prosecution of this application can be expedited thereby.

Substance of the Interview

- 1) No exhibits were shown or demonstrations conducted.
- 2) Claim 6 (the sole independent claim) was discussed and as currently amended is identical to the draft claim faxed to the examiner.
- 3) The Magowan, Jr. (U.S. 2,929,399) prior art reference was discussed.

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- 4) The principal proposed amendments are shown in the draft claim 6 attached to the Interview Summary.
- 5) Applicant's principal argument was that the proposed amendment to claim 6 includes a number of structural differences from the Magowan reference, which does not disclose, teach or make obvious the features of the invention as claimed, particularly with respect to the structural configuration of the ball, seat, bypass, return spring, adjustable set screw, fluid opening through the set screw and the unimpeded fluid flow through the valve due to its different structural configuration.
- 6) No other pertinent matters were discussed.
- 7) The outcome of the interview is described on the Interview Summary.

I hereby certify that this paper is being filed by
facsimile transmission (571-273-8300) with the
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office.

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Respectfully Submitted,

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